

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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Washoe County Health District Hillside Cemetery Permit FAQs

Question: Did the owner of Hillside Cemetery apply for a permit to disinter bodies?

Yes, the owner did apply for a permit. The Washoe County Health District evaluated it in regard to the protection of public health and the permit was issued. This is the second renewal of a permit that was issued in 2014.

The current permit requires:

- Disinterment and reinterment be conducted in accordance with a specific scope of work
- All operations will occur within the property boundaries
- The Washoe County Health District will conduct inspections of the permit site operations
- Permittee must notify the health district a minimum of 24 hours prior to start of work

Question: Who requested the permit?

The permit was issued to Sierra Memorial Gardens, 142 Bell Street, Reno, NV 89509

Question: What kind of oversight will the health district provide?

No regulations have been written to oversee the process. The applicable state law requires only that the district issue a permit.

However, the health district's role is to protect the quality of life in Washoe County, so in observing the work, if any public health issues arise, the health district will take appropriate steps to mitigate any problems.

Question: Is there a threat of communicable diseases such as anthrax being spread during the work?

Any risk would only present a danger to workers who might come into direct contact with them. Workers would be wearing proper protective gear. And each set of remains would be relocated in its own container.

Question: How many bodies are being moved?

The scope of work requests the movement of approximately 1,146 bodies.

About Washoe County Health District: The Washoe County District Board of Health, through the Washoe County Health District, has jurisdiction over all public health matters in Washoe County, Nevada. Its mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Washoe County through health promotion, disease prevention, public health emergency preparedness, and environmental services. The Board of Health is composed of seven members, including two representatives each from Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County, and a physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada.